

IS HE LEGEND OR MAN ?

THE LINE OF  
**DC**  
SUPER-STARS

# 1<sup>st</sup> ISSUE SPECIAL

25¢  
NO. 1  
APR.  
32413

ATLAS

INTRODUCING

# ATLAS

APPROVED  
BY  
THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
COMI  
AUTHORITY



1<sup>st</sup>  
DC  
ISSUE

THERE WERE GIANTS IN THOSE DAYS!  
~AND THE MIGHTIEST OF THEM ALL WAS~

# ATLAS THE GREAT!



A DC QUALITY MAGAZINE

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN  
BY ~ **JACK KIRBY**  
AND  
INKS AND LETTERING BY ~ ~ ~  
**D. BRUCE BERRY**

A-517

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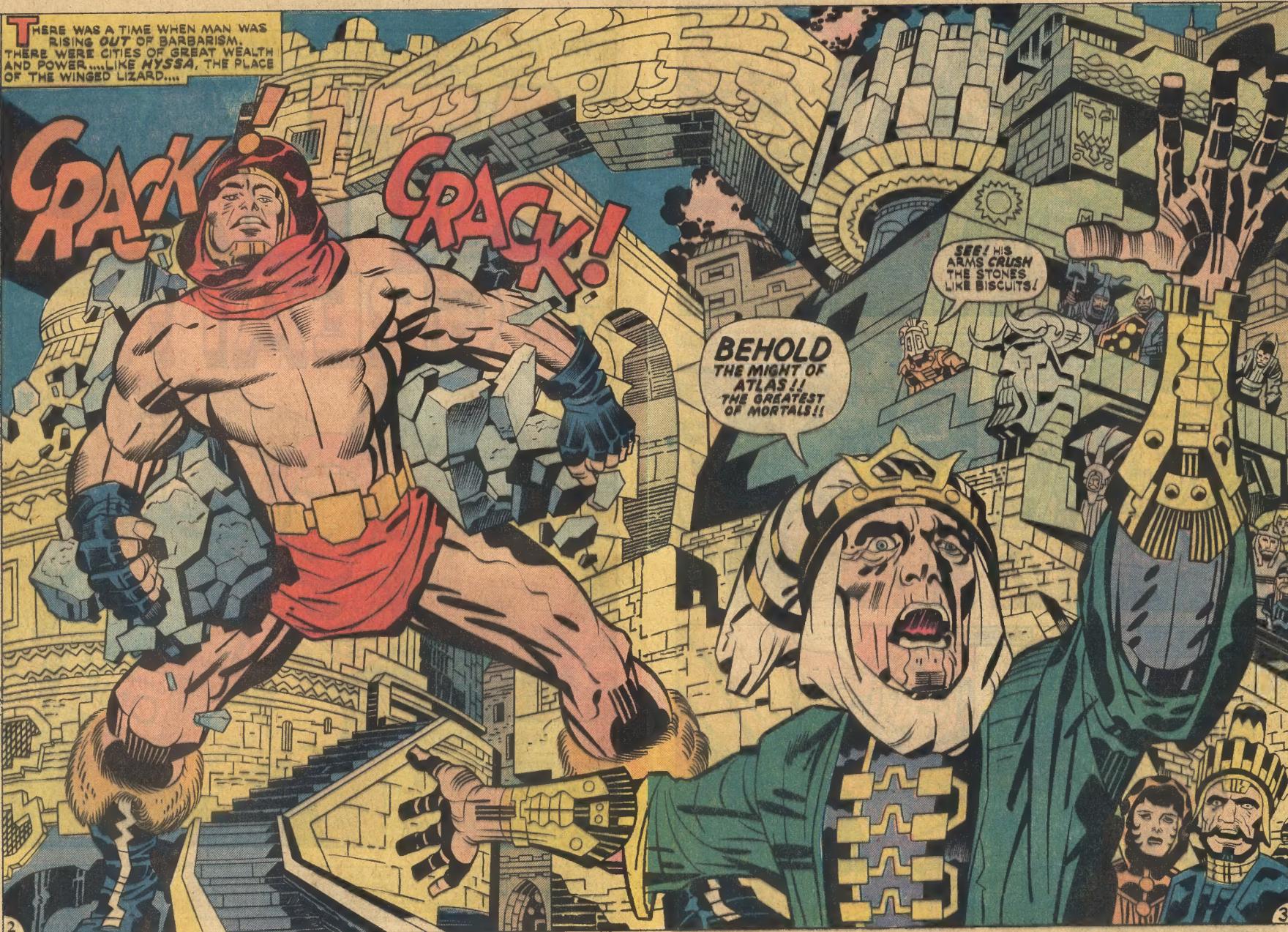
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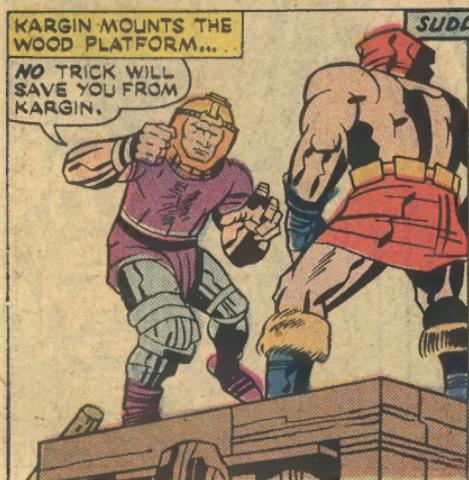
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN MAN WAS  
RISING OUT OF BARBARISM.  
THERE WERE CITIES OF GREAT WEALTH  
AND POWER....LIKE HYSSA, THE PLACE  
OF THE WINGED LIZARD....

CRACK!  
CRACK!

BEHOLD  
THE MIGHT OF  
ATLAS!!  
THE GREATEST  
OF MORTALS!!

SEE! HIS  
ARMS CRUSH  
THE STONES  
LIKE BISCUITS!





IT WAS A TIME WHEN MEN'S EYES BEHELD WONDROUS SIGHTS! ...WHEN TONGUES  
SPOKE OF MIGHTY DEEDS....AND MORTALS BECAME UNDYING MYTHS....FOR  
THEY LIVED WITH STRANGE MYSTERIES, AND CAME TO GRIPS WITH THE MAMMOTH TER-  
RORS THAT SURVIVED THE BYGONE AGES....BUT, BEFORE THIS LEGEND ...THERE WAS

# ATLAS THE UNTAMED

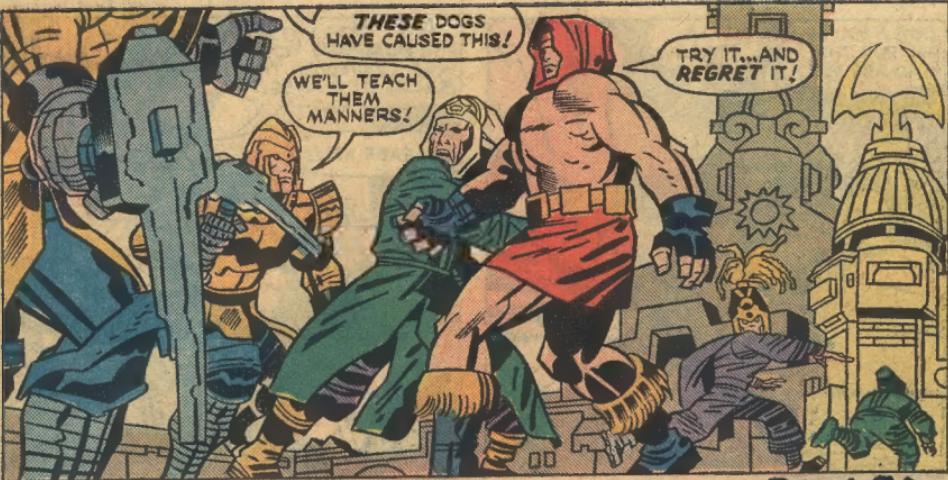




THESE DOGS  
HAVE CAUSED THIS!

WE'LL TEACH  
THEM MANNERS!

TRY IT... AND  
REGRET IT!



THE SOLDIERS STRIKE!!!

WUMP!

WUMP!  
WHA...!

KRAX! KRAK!



YOU'LL ANSWER  
TO ME FOR THIS,  
STRANGER!

SO THE KING'S  
NOBLE WANTS  
AN ANSWER,  
EH?



HERE IT  
IS... SIRE!





CONTINUED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING.

AT THAT MOMENT, A VOICE INTERRUPTS THE STAND-OFF....IT'S A LOW REPTILIAN HISS OF A SOUND THAT JOLTS ATLAS.



ATLAS TURNS TO THE SOURCE OF THE SOUND....HE KNOWS THAT YEARS OF ENDLESS SEARCHING FOR ITS OWNER ARE ABOUT TO END...



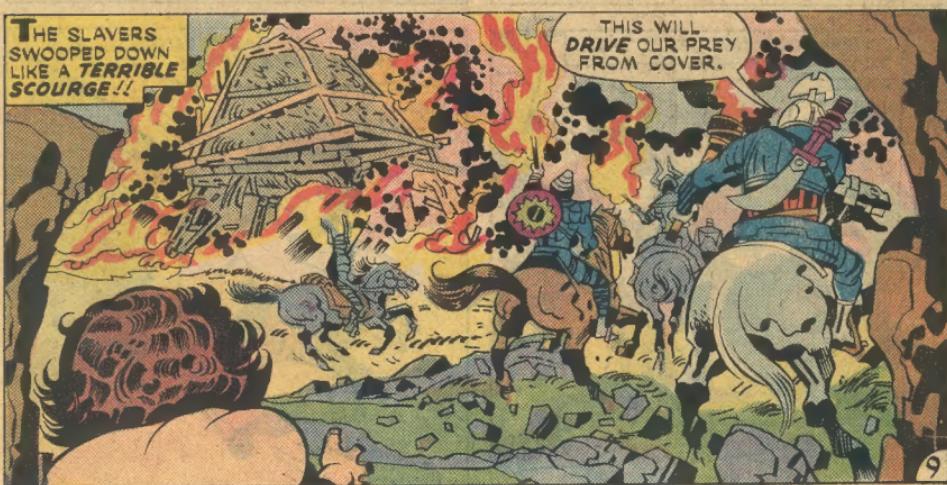
THE FACE!! ATLAS SEES THE FACE!!  
...AND TIME SUDDENLY RACES MADLY  
BACK TO THE PAST!!



THERE WAS ATLAS, THE CHILD....HIDDEN  
BY HIS PARENTS IN A CAVE DURING A  
MOMENT OF GREAT DANGER!



THE SLAVERS SWOOPED DOWN  
LIKE A TERRIBLE  
SCOURGE!!



THE CHILD ATLAS SAW HIS MOTHER CAPTURED WITH THE OTHER VILLAGERS.

LET NONE ESCAPE!



HIS FATHER RESISTED AGAINST OVERWHELMING GODS...

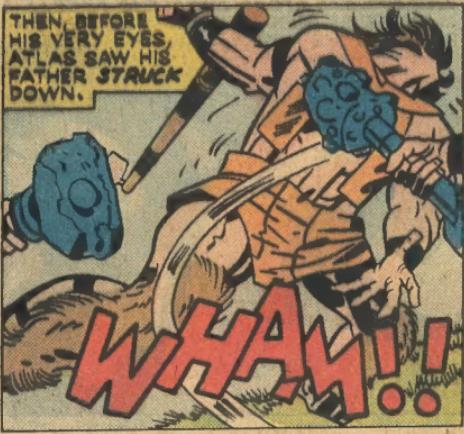
STOP HIM!

HE'S LIKE A TIGER!



THEN, BEFORE HIS VERY EYES, ATLAS SAW HIS FATHER STRUCK DOWN.

WHAM!!



THE GRIEF-STRICKEN CHILD THEN RAN TO AID HIS FATHER.

Y-YOU HURT MY FATHER!!



SO THE TIGER HAS A CUB, EH? ...COME HERE!

YOU... YOU!!



**S**UDDENLY STARING DOWN AT A FRIGHTENED CHILD, WAS THE FACE THAT WOULD CHANGE ITS DESTINY....IT WAS THE FACE OF A HUMAN LIZARD....A CRUEL REPLICA OF THE CREST UPON ITS HELMET....THE CHILD, ATLAS, WOULD NEVER FORGET IT....THAT FACE WOULD MAKE HIM AN ETERNAL

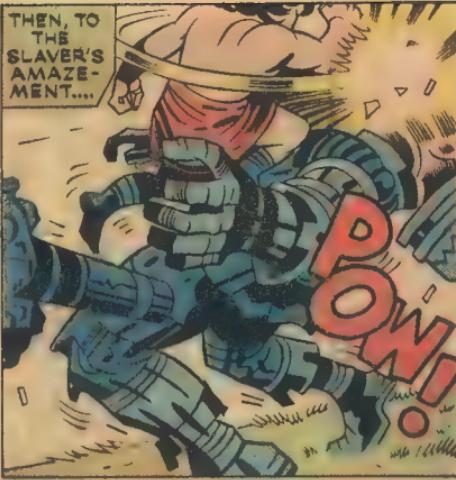
# AVENGER!

CHAPTER  
THREE

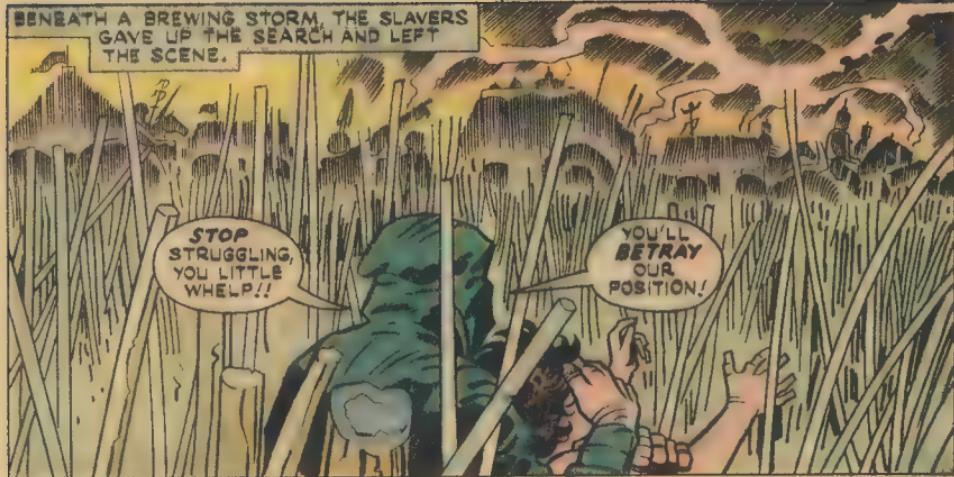
LET  
ME  
GO!

YOU'LL  
MAKE A  
FIT SLAVE  
ONE DAY,  
CUB!!

CONTINUED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING



BENEATH A BREWING STORM, THE SLAVERS GAVE UP THE SEARCH AND LEFT THE SCENE.



THE LAST OF THEM ARE ALMOST OUT OF SIGHT. I'LL SOON LET YOU GO.



THAT INSTANT....



FREE ONCE AGAIN, THE CHILD RUSHED  
TO THE SCENE OF TRAGEDY...  
SEEKING HIS FATHER...



...AND THEN HE FINDS HIS FATHER... AMONG  
THE DEAD...



WHAT DOES THE BOY SEEK  
NOW? THE SLAVERS LEAVE  
NOTHING....NOTHING....



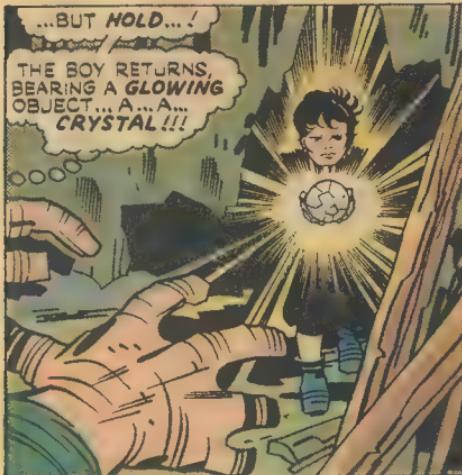
HE IS A STRANGE  
CHILD. HIS  
STRENGTH IS  
THAT OF A  
FULL-GROWN  
MAN!!

CAN IT  
BE...?



...BUT HOLD...!

THE BOY RETURNS,  
BEARING A GLOWING  
OBJECT... A... A...  
CRYSTAL!!!



THE CRYSTAL POSSESSES A THOUSAND  
FACETS OF STABBING, MYSTIC LIGHT.

FORGIVE THIS POOR TRAVELER,  
BOY....LITTLE DID I REALIZE  
WHO YOUR  
PEOPLE  
WERE.

GO  
AWAY!



CONTINUED ON 5<sup>th</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING.

YOUR PEOPLE CAME FROM THE CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN...I KNOW THIS NOW FOR TRUTH!



...AND IT IS SAID THAT THE LEADER OF YOUR PEOPLE BEARS A PIECE OF THAT MOUNTAIN...AND MUST PASS IT ON...WHEN HE DIES.

I AM LEADER...NOW!!



...RIGHTLY SO, BOY.

I AM CHAGRA, YOUR HUMBLE WITNESS AND LOYAL SUBJECT... WHERE YOU LEAD... I SHALL FOLLOW.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS.



CHAGRA FOLLOWED THE BOY, EVEN AS THE YEARS PASSED... EVEN AS ATLAS GREW LARGER... STRONGER.



EVEN INTO MANHOOD WHERE VENGEANCE HARDENED AND LIVED.



THE TWO SHARED TIMES OF GREAT HARDSHIP AND DANGER...

LOOK OUT! ...A GREAT BEAST!!

RRAAWW!



IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF A GREAT DESTINY....IT WAS THE SHAPING OF A GIANT FIGURE WHOSE SHADOW WOULD FALL ACROSS ALL OF MANKIND....AND, ONE DAY, AS THE WORLD GREW OLDER, HIS NAME WOULD STILL LIVE WHENEVER MEN SPOKE OF AWESOME DEEDS....YET, THE LIVING ATLAS SOUGHT ONLY THE ROAD WHICH LED TO A

# HUMAN LIZARD!

CHAPTER  
FOUR



THE MUSCLE AND SINWE OF  
ATLAS WERE A MATCH FOR  
ANYTHING THAT ROAMED....  
HE HURLED BACK THE BEAST!

KILL IT, ATLAS!  
...KILL IT!

NO,  
CHAGRA.

IT IS A YOUNG BEAST....  
AND FAR FROM ITS KIN.

BUT THERE WERE WITNESSES TO THIS FEAT!

SUCH MIGHT I  
HAVE NEVER  
SEEN.

WE MUST TELL OF  
THIS TO OTHERS.

SURELY,  
HE IS A  
MAN OF  
DESTINY.

HE HOLDS THE BRIDGE  
UPON HIS BACK.

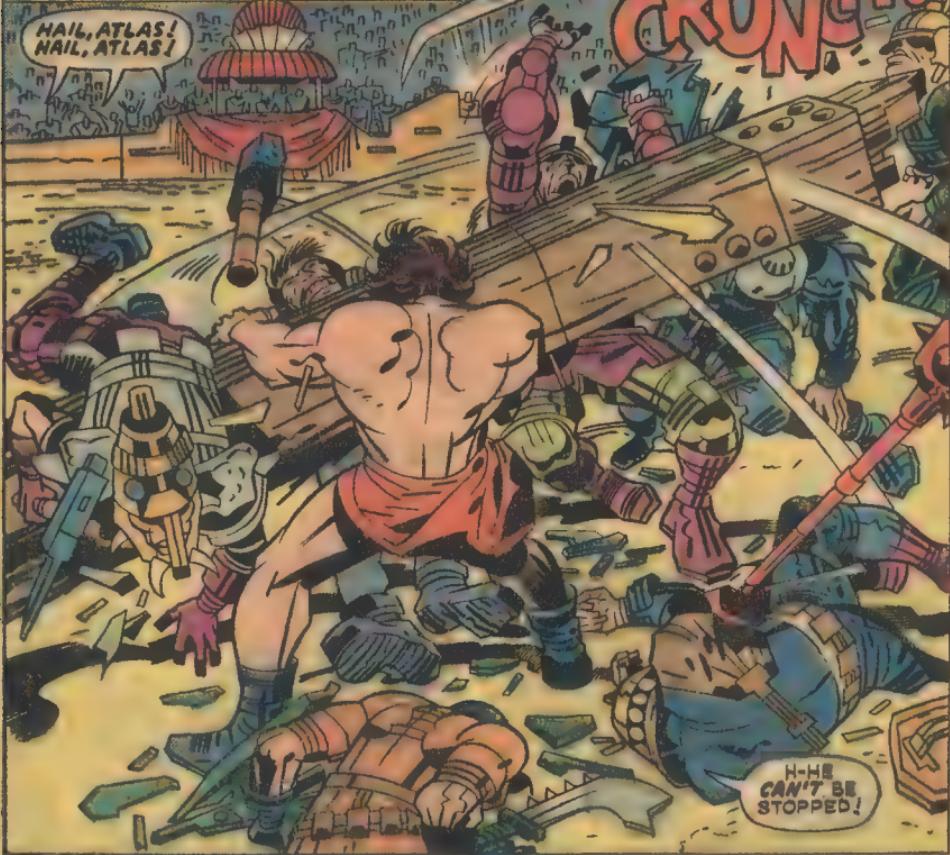
IT IS ATLAS!  
HE SAVED  
OUR LIVES!

HEROIC DEEDS WERE TO  
BE THE MARK OF ATLAS.

IN A LAND OF DEVIL-WORSHIP, IT WAS ATLAS  
WHO DESTROYED THE IDOL "ISHTAK"!

THERE SHALL BE NO  
MORE VICTIMS FOR  
YOU, EVIL ONE!

IN THE FIGHTING ARENAS BUILT BY BARBARIC PRINCES, ATLAS GAINED MORE REKNOWN BY DISPATCHING SQUADS OF TRAINED KILLERS.



VICTORY FOLLOWED VICTORY...ATLAS WON TROPHIES AND GIFTS.

THE GOLDEN "HELMET OF CHAMPIONS" IS YOURS, ATLAS!

HAIL! HAIL!

ATLAS WON NO RICHES...BUT HE SOON HAD GOOD TRANSPORTATION AND SUPPLIES FOR CHAGRA AND HIMSELF.

IT'S A LONG ROAD, ATLAS. IT LIES EVER AHEAD.

AHEAD LIES WHAT I SEEK!

CONTINUED ON 32 PAGE FOLLOWING.

THEN, ONE NIGHT, CHAGRA CONFESSED...

I'VE WAITED UNTIL YOU  
WERE READY TO BARGAIN,  
ATLAS.... I CAN LEAD  
YOU TO YOUR GOAL  
....IF YOU...  
LEAD ME TO THE  
CRYSTAL  
MOUNTAIN.

I SEE....  
THEN FIRST TO  
THE LIZARD  
KINGDOM!

THE BARGAIN WAS STRUCK. DAYS LATER, THE  
PAIR ENTERED THE FORBIDDEN REGION OF  
FIRE....



THIS LAND IS RAVAGED  
BY HEAT AND FLAME.



WITHOUT FEAR OR HESITATION, CHAGRA RODE  
THROUGH THE FLAMES....ATLAS FOLLOWED.

ARE YOU SUCH  
A WIZARD,  
CHAGRA?

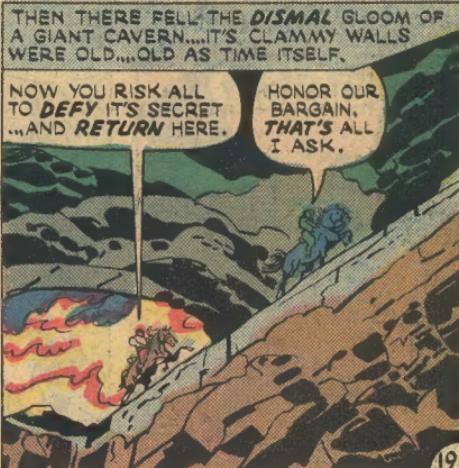
NO, BUT I LIVED IN  
THIS ACCURSED  
KINGDOM.



THEN THERE FELL THE DISMAL GLOOM OF  
A GIANT CAVERN....ITS CLAMMY WALLS  
WERE OLD...OLD AS TIME ITSELF.

NOW YOU RISK ALL  
TO DEFY IT'S SECRET  
...AND RETURN HERE.

HONOR OUR  
BARGAIN,  
THAT'S ALL  
I ASK.



THERE WERE STRANGE ECHOES IN THIS  
HOARY DOMAIN...SOUNDS OF THINGS  
LONG THOUGHT TO HAVE VANISHED...

WHAT WAS  
THAT?

RIDE ON,  
ATLAS.

HHRRSSS!?

THE REMEMBERED SOUND OF THE LIZARD  
JOLTS THE THOUGHTS OF ATLAS FOR-  
WORD TO HIS GOAL'S END...

HOLD,  
KNAVE!

I'VE FOUND IT! THE  
FACE THAT'S HAUNTED  
ME...THE VOICE...

I AM HYSSA...WHAT MANNER  
OF FOOL DARES TO MISTREAT  
ONE WHOM I FAVOR!??



HYSSA LOOKS DEEP INTO THE  
EYES OF ATLAS...AND GROWS  
UNEASY....

HAVE WE NOT  
MET BEFORE?



SPEAK!  
WHO ARE  
YOU!?

YOUR  
CONQUEROR!



THUS, A GREAT  
SAGA BEGINS!!

IF YOU WOULD  
LIKE TO READ  
MORE ABOUT  
THE SAGA OF  
ATLAS,

WRITE:

THE STORY BEHIND  
THE STORY N.P.P.,  
75 ROCKEFELLER  
PLAZA, N.Y., N.Y. 10019

# THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

L-438

Legend has it that Atlas was the first king of Atlantis, and the leader of the Titans that Zeus overthrew. For his role in championing the Titan cause, he was condemned to carry the heavens on his shoulders.

Yet what is a legend? The dictionary defines legend as "a story coming down from the past; especially one popularly accepted as historical though not verifiable." But modern interpretation has given the word legend the quality of something larger than life . . . more dramatic, more powerful, more unique.

And that's appropriate for our new version of Atlas. Certainly our hero is larger than life, laden with qualities beyond the reach of ordinary mortals. The only part of the description that doesn't work is the "coming down from the past" section, but that's easily enough explained.

This is an era of instant legend. Electronic media and mass market magazines publicize any extraordinary feat so rapidly that new heroes, new legends, are born every day. No sooner has the world's record for anything been broken than the media use their influence to announce the birth of a new star.

And so the value of age wanes. A story is no longer a classic because it has been handed down from generation to generation. Our classics are now—the tales aimed at our decade, our year, our instant.

Which brings us to *Atlas* #1.

If there's been one theme running through the comics career of Jack Kirby, it's been legend. And that applies on two levels: the first being the new characters who he's raised to the quality of legend, and the second the numerous experiments with magazines devoted to modern versions of the legends of the past. Whether it's Greek, Roman, Norse, or entirely new gods, alien races with a stature approaching godhood have always entered into the Kirby scheme of things.

Nowadays it's very popular to hypothesize about the possibility of an alien race landing on earth and giving unintentional birth to the concept of pantheons of gods. But Jack Kirby envisioned such



events years earlier.

In that sense, *Atlas* is but the latest in a long series of visions of the past/present/future/ unknown. It possesses the qualities that made the earlier Kirby creations so popular, and draws upon the concept of legend again. But more importantly, it is an entirely new speculation—a new addition to the Kirby myths.

How it develops, whether it gains the vast popularity of some of the other Kirby myths, only time will tell. It's up to you, the readers, to tell us whether you want this magazine to continue. Even an incredibly fast artist like Jack Kirby can only do a certain number of magazines at once, and if you want this to be one of them—let us know. Our address is: **ATLAS**, National Periodical Publications, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York 10019.

See you in the land of myth!



DC **1<sup>st</sup>** ISSUE SPECIAL 25¢

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